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Extensions of country programmes in the Africa region

Note by the Executive Director

Summary

The present note contains information on the second one-year extension of the country programme for Burundi.

In accordance with established procedures, the Executive Director approves the first one-year extension of a country programme, while requests for extensions for a second year or two-year extensions are submitted to the Executive Board for approval.

The Executive Board may wish to approve the second one-year country programme extension for Burundi, as indicated in the attached table.

08-28858 (E) 090408

Extensions of UNFPA country programmes for which the approval of the Executive Board is sought

Country	Years covered by original country programme	Year covered by any extension already approved	Year proposed for new extension	Extension		Explanation		
				2nd one year	Two years	United Nations harmonization	In-country political development	Implementation and/or other issues
Burundi	2005-2007	2008	2009	X		During the establishment of the Integrated United Nations Office in Burundi, the United Nations system merged the Security Council-mandated priority peace consolidation programme with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). This led to the development of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Support Strategy, which reflects the objectives of the United Nations system in Burundi for 2007-2008. As a result, the United Nations Development Group Executive Committee agencies extended their country programmes for one year, through 2008. This was based on the assumption that the poverty reduction strategy paper would cover the period 2006-2008.	The signing of the peace accord in September 2006 led to a peace consolidation phase. Security Council resolution 1719 established the Integrated United Nations Office in Burundi in January 2007 to assist the peace process. The Government drew up a priority peace consolidation programme (2007-2008), which was endorsed by the Peacebuilding Commission and funded by the Peacebuilding Fund.	In order to align its country programme with the UNDAF process, UNFPA seeks to extend the country programme by an additional year, 2009. The UNFPA country programme will continue to focus on: (a) reproductive health, emphasizing youth and life skills, and safe motherhood, including the prevention and care of obstetric fistula and the promotion of birth spacing. The programme will continue to serve populations that have been dispersed and demobilized, as well as vulnerable communities.

Country	Years covered by original country programme	Year covered by any extension already approved	Year(s) proposed for new extension	Extension		Explanation		
						United Nations harmonization	In-country political development	Implementation and/or other issues
						However, the Government extended the period of the poverty reduction strategy paper through 2009. As a result, the Government and the United Nations decided to extend the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Support Strategy through 2009, and begin the planning process for the next UNDAF in 2008. This necessitated an additional extension of one year for the country programme.	The implementation of the country programme has been slower than usual, because of setbacks to the peace accord and political difficulties that delayed the peace consolidation and development processes.	(b) population and development, with a focus on analysing data from the population census (to be undertaken in 2008), and building capacity in national statistical services; and (c) gender, by supporting a joint programme for the medical care of victims of gender-based violence. The joint programme will also provide integrated care, including counselling; seek to prevent gender-based violence; and strengthen the capacity of women as peacebuilding agents.

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Extensions of country programmes in the Latin America and the Caribbean Region

Note by the Executive Director

Summary

The present note contains information on the one-year extensions of the country programmes for Ecuador and Guatemala.

In accordance with established procedures, the Executive Director approves the first one-year extension of a country programme, while requests for extensions for a second year or two-year extensions are submitted to the Executive Board for approval.

The Executive Board may wish to take note of the one-year country programme extensions for Ecuador and Guatemala.

08-28986 (E)

One-year country programme extensions approved by the Executive Director

Country	Original programme period	Year proposed for extension	Explanation		
			United Nations harmonization	In-country political development	Implementation and/or other issues
Ecuador	2004-2008	2009	The United Nations country team in Ecuador is seeking one-year extensions of the country programmes of the United Nations Development Group Executive Committee agencies. This is being done in order to harmonize the respective country programmes with the recently launched national development plan of Ecuador. The United Nations Development Assistance Framework is being prepared according to the priorities of the national development plan. This harmonization process will permit the new United Nations Development Assistance Framework to be aligned with the national political planning process of the Government and its timetable.	The changing political scenario and the development of a new national constitution have made it necessary for the United Nations country team to extend the duration of the respective country programmes for one year. The new constitution will bring about political, administrative and socio-economic changes to existing country structures, primarily through legal and institutional reforms and through the new presidential election. The year 2008 is therefore a crucial year from a political and institutional perspective.	Given the complex socio-political scenario of the country, the one-year extension of the UNFPA country programme will permit UNFPA to better respond to new government priorities, structures and institutional arrangements that include new implementation modalities and agreements. UNDP and UNICEF are also extending their country programmes by one year.

One-year extensions of country programmes approved by the Executive Director

Country	Original programme period	Year proposed for extension	Explanation		
			United Nations harmonization	In-country political development	Implementation and/or other Issues
Guatemala	2005-2008	2009	All United Nations Development Group Executive Committee agencies are extending their country programmes for one year in order to align them with the government planning cycle. In accordance with this alignment, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP have extended their country programmes through 2009.	Presidential elections were held in November 2007; the new Government took office in January 2008. The newly elected authorities are now developing their national planning framework. The new United Nations Development Assistance Framework, covering the period 2009-2012, will thus be prepared in accordance with the national planning framework that will be completed by the end of 2008.	The current country programme and the 2007 midterm review provide an adequate framework for all UNFPA-supported projects in Guatemala. The programme can easily be extended by one year. The decision to extend the country programme cycles responds to a request by the Government to harmonize United Nations programme cycles with government cycles. This will permit a more effective and efficient provision of technical and financial assistance for national priorities, in accordance with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.

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Extensions of country programmes in the Asia and the Pacific region

Note by the Executive Director

Summary

The present note contains information on the one-year extension of the country programme for Afghanistan and the two-year extension of the country programme for Pakistan.

In accordance with established procedures, the Executive Director approves the first one-year extension of a country programme, while requests for extensions for a second year or two-year extensions are submitted to the Executive Board for approval.

The Executive Board may wish to take note of the one-year country programme extension for Afghanistan as indicated in table 1, and approve the two-year extension of the country programme for Pakistan, as indicated in table 2.

08-29088 (E) 090408

Table 1. One-year country programme extensions approved by the Executive Director

Country	Original programme period	Year proposed for extension	Reason and Explanation		
			United Nations harmonization	In-country political development	Implementation and/or other Issues
Afghanistan	2006-2008	2009	The formulation of the Afghanistan national development strategy will begin in March 2008. As a result, the United Nations country team has recommended that the development of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework be undertaken in 2008, after the finalization of the national development strategy.	The development of the Afghanistan national development strategy is a government-led process. It is supported by the international community, under the auspices of the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board, which is co-chaired by the Government and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan. The participation of the United Nations country team in the national analytical process will create opportunities: (a) for dialogue with government and international partners to identify critical trends and disparities; (b) for the involvement of stakeholders to conduct consultations on the interim Afghanistan national development strategy in the 34 provinces of Afghanistan; (c) for discussions on capacity development; and (d) to enable the Government, the United Nations and the international community to undertake a quality analysis of development issues.	The current country programme provides an adequate framework for all UNFPA-supported projects being implemented in Afghanistan.

Table 2. Extensions of country programmes for which the approval of the Executive Board is sought

Country	Original programme period	Year proposed for extension	Reason and Explanation		
			United Nations harmonization	In-country political development	Implementation and/or other Issues
Pakistan	2004-2008	2009-2010	The United Nations Development Group Executive Committee agencies in Pakistan are requesting a two-year extension of their country programmes in order to align them with the government national planning cycle, 2005-2010. The United Nations system in Pakistan also agreed to extend the United Nations Development Assistance Framework so that it could reflect the United Nations 'delivering as one' programme for which Pakistan is a pilot country.	The Government has agreed to the extension of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework in order to ensure alignment with the national cycle of development planning. Recent political developments have made it more difficult to achieve expected results during the original time frame of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and the country programme (2004-2008).	Heightened security concerns and additional needs resulting from natural disasters and their aftermath will be incorporated in the UNFPA-supported country programme in Pakistan. This will ensure continued delivery of results and programme monitoring.